Hello People of Faith,

The Office of Governor Bill Walker would like to invite you to a special Forum for People of Faith!  This event will he held on Thursday, November 2nd, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Love Inc. building at 44410 K-Beach Road, Soldotna.  This forum will hopefully be the first of many, dedicated to topics where the faith community can come together to share and network with the nonprofit community, as well as representatives from appropriate state agencies. As you will see from the attached flyer, our first topic will be ***Safe Children and Healthy Families***.  The event will be led by Trevor Storrs, Director of The Alaska Children’s Trust, and Laura Norton-Cruz, Director of the Alaska Resilience Initiative, and is being co-hosted by the Office of the Governor, The Children’s Trust, and the Alaska Resilience Initiative. **This forum will be especially beneficial to all those in your congregation and community that directly work with children.  While all faith leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend, please make sure this invitation finds its way to the directors of your youth ministries, your Sunday School teachers, your family pastors/coordinators…etc.**

The following is language from Trevor Storrs, which might be helpful to share in your communications.

*“Children are Alaska’s most valuable resource.   We know that children who grow up in safe, stable and nurturing homes and communities are much more likely to become capable and contributing adults.  Most children are growing up with these supports. Unfortunately, many do not.  The future of any society depends on its ability to foster the healthy development of the next generation, which can be easily derailed by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) like child maltreatment, exposure to domestic violence, or historical trauma.  Learn how ACEs impacts a child’s brain architecture, how trauma is linked to most of the community ills we struggle with today and how faith leaders can help Alaska addresses one of most important epidemics.  The workshop will provide participants with a framework they can utilize within their faith community to help ensure all children and families live in a safe, stable and nurturing environment.”*

We are excited to gather together in November to work together and get to know one another better.  Thank you for attending, and/or sending the appropriate members of your community to join us.

Please RSVP to me so that I have an idea of our numbers. Please feel free to also send me the contact information for your staff and volunteers that work with children and youth.

Also, please note that this event includes a “Dessert Potluck.”  Coffee, Tea and Water will be provided.   The fun sweet stuff will be brought by all of us. Thank you!

Warmly,

Elizabeth